

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08487 020941Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /058 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 617

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RP, SHUM

SUBJECT: CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION MANIFESTO "RETURN TO FREEDOM"

1. CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS PUBLISHED THREE-PAGE MANIFESTO DATED MAY 24 BUT RELEASED TO PUBLIC JUNE 1 ENTITLED "RETURN TO FREEDOM." IT CALLS ON PRESIDENT MARCOS: A) TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW, B) RESTORE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, C) REMOVE ALL LIMITATIONS ON RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH AND FREE ASSEMBLY, D) RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, E) REPLACE MEMBERS OF PRESENT COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) AND GIVE SUCCESSORS FULL CONTROL OF AFP FOR 120 DAY PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, AND F) HOLD FREE ELECTIONS. STATEMENT SAYS IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER ELECTIONS BE HELD UNDER 1935 OR 1973 CONSTITUTIONS AS LONG AS PEOPLE CAN VOTE FREELY.

2. CLU'S RECOMMENDATION PRECEDED BY DISCUSSION OF MARTIAL LAW'S FAILURE TO UNIFY PEOPLE IN FACE OF MAJOR PROBLEMS, INCLUDING MINDANAO, THE ECONOMY AND THE BASES. STATEMENT ARGUES REGIME MAY HAVE PASSIVE ACQUIESCENCE OF PEOPLE, BUT NOT THEIR SUPPORT SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN RULERS SINCE 1971. "OUR PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE PHILIPPINES SHARES WITH SOUTH KOREA THE UNENVIABLE DISTINCTION OF BEING ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES WHERE

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PAGE 02 MANILA 08487 020941Z

ELECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN HELD FOR SIX YEARS."

3. CLU PROPOSES DISMISSAL OF PRESENT COMELEC SINCE THE REFERENDA IT SUPERVISED "CLEARLY SHAM" AND REPLACEMENT BY FOUR RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICES WHO WOULD BE GIVEN FULL CONTROL OF AFP FOR 120 DAY FREE DISCUSSION PERIOD PRIOR TO ELECTIONS.

4. CLU STATEMENT IS SIGNED BY SENATORS DIOKNO AND TANADA, FORMER JUSTICES REYES AND ZALDIVAR AND FORMER CONCON DELEGATE J. ANTONIO (TONYPET) ARANETA. COPIES WERE FURNISHED PRESIDENT AND SECRETARIES ENRILE AND TATAD, AS WELL AS THE PRESS. STATEMENT WAS LEAD ITEM IN JUNE 2 AP, BUT THERE NO MENTION OF IT IN GUIDED MEDIA.

5. COMMENT: SENATOR DIOKNO RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF CLU WOULD BE ISSUING AN "INTERESTING PAPER" SOON. PAPER MAY BE INTERESTING, BUT IS NOT PARTICULARLY PERSUASIVE. IT SEEMS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON GOP'S FAILURE TO HOLD ELECTIONS AND IS NOT A BLUEPRINT FOR A REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE TO MARTIAL LAW. FAILURE TO SPECIFY EXACTLY WHAT AND FOR WHOM PEOPLE WOULD BE VOTING FOR IS MOST OBVIOUS WEAKNESS. PAPER SEEMS WRITTEN TO APPEAL TO U.S. AUDIENCE. BRACKETING OF KOREA AND PHILIPPINES (FOR FAILURE HOLD ELECTIONS) DESIGNED DENIGRATE GOP IN U.S. PAPER CAREFULLY AVOIDS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS BUT CLEARLY IMPLICIT IN MESSAGE IS VIEW THAT SUCH RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED HERE. AT THIS JUNCTURE WE DOUBT STATEMENT WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON FEW FILIPINOS ABLE TO READ IT, ALTHOUGH MARCOS MAY BEGIN TALKING ELECTIONS FORREGIONAL ASSEMBLIES AGAIN. WHAT EFFECT IT MIGHT HAVE ABROAD IS ANOTHER QUESTION, BUT AT THIS STAGE IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO INFLUENCE MANY PEOPLE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. FULL TEXT POUCHED EA/PHL.
STULL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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